

# Institute To Match Pell Grant Funds

Next Year's Tuition Up  
4 Percent to Top \$33K

By Marissa Vogt  
NEWS EDITOR

MIT is announcing today a program to match the amount of federal Pell grant funds for eligible students, effectively reducing the self-help portion of financial aid awards for the neediest students.

The announcement comes in the wake of Friday's press release that tuition and fees will increase by 4 percent to \$33,600 for the 2006–2007 academic year.

President Susan Hockfield said that the Pell Matching Grants program makes an important statement by targeting the students with the greatest financial need. Roughly 15 percent of MIT students receive Pell grants, which are typically awarded by the federal government to students whose family incomes are less than \$40,000 per year, Hockfield said. Seventy-two percent of undergraduates at MIT receive need-based financial aid.

Pell grants are entitlement grants, meaning that students can take the award with them to whichever institution they attend, though the grants carry varying monetary value depending on the cost of the school.

By pledging to match Pell grants with MIT funds, the Institute is also making a political statement regarding recent budget cuts affecting the number of Pell grant recipients.

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# UA Pres/VP Debate Draws Small Crowd

By Curt Fischer  
STAFF REPORTER

About 15 people showed up at the start of the Undergraduate Association debate last night, with the crowd reaching only about 25, even at the night's climax as the candidates vying to lead the undergraduate government discussed the hot topics for the year ahead.

Issues of legitimacy and accountability, communication between the student body and Institute administration, and crisis management elicited the most heated debate.

Presidential candidate and current UA vice president Jessica H. Lowell '07 and vice presidential running mate Steven M. Kelch '08, a UA senator for the fraternities, repeatedly emphasized accountability for the UA. "People need to be removed if they are not effective," Kelch said.

Dwight M. Chambers '07, currently UA Senator for fraternities, and his vice presidential running mate Victor C. Cabral '07 (also a Campus Life writer for *The Tech*) called for "making the UA a legitimate body." One way to foster legitimacy for the UA as an organization is to "not drown out legitimate business in the noise" said Chambers, railing against last year's



Undergraduate Association Presidential/Vice Presidential tickets (top and bottom, from left to right) Dwight M. Chambers '07 and Victor C. Cabral '07, Andrew T. Lukmann '07 and Ruth F. Miller '07, and Jessica H. Lowell '07 and Steven M. Kelch '08 participated in a debate sponsored by *The Tech* Monday night in the first floor lobby of the Student Center. Photography by Eric D. Schmiedl.

UA resolution against pink snow.

Senate Speaker Andrew T. Lukmann '07, a presidential candidate running with Ruth F. Miller '07 (also an opinion editor for *The Tech*),

enumerated three ways to foster UA legitimacy: encouraging leadership from within, having a strong executive board, and maintaining an archive to train future UA members.

One issue on which the tickets differed substantively was their stance on interaction with the Institute ad-

Debate, Page 15

# DoD Agrees to Investigation of Lincoln Lab Fraud

By Marcella Bombardieri  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

The U.S. Department of Defense has agreed to investigate allegations of fraud in missile defense research at MIT, three years after refusing to allow MIT access to the documents it needed for an independent probe.

MIT has come under harsh criticism, both within the university and from nationally known scientists, for appearing to acquiesce to the Pentagon.

An MIT official conceded yesterday that the Defense Department's investigation would not be completely independent, but said it was a reasonable compromise.

"We wanted to conduct our own investigation, that was Plan A," said associate provost Claude R. Canizares. "What we have here is Plan B."

Canizares said that there is no timetable for completion of the investigation and that the Pentagon would share its conclusions with MIT.

Theodore A. Postol '67, the pro-

fessor who has spent years pursuing his allegations of fraud at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory, condemned the new plan.

"It's hard to believe people can be so clumsy and dishonest," he said.

"What MIT is in effect doing is turning over responsibilities for oversight of its own academic operations to the Department of Defense."

Defense Department spokeswoman Cheryl Irwin said it would be improper to discuss the investigation, but pointed out that the mis-

sile technology involved in the fraud allegations is not being used by the United States.

In 1997, the Pentagon conducted what it said was a successful test of an infrared missile sensor over the Pacific Ocean. Two scientists at the MIT-run Lincoln Lab were part of a team that evaluated the results and deemed them "basically sound."

But Postol, known for exposing problems with US Army boasts

Lincoln Lab, Page 15

# Profs Face Off on Latkes Versus Hamantaschen

By Benjamin P. Glezman  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Last night, in the noisy 10-250 lecture hall, six respected professors gathered to continue a three-year de-

bate of the merits and pitfalls of two Jewish delicacies: the latke, a fried potato pancake oft served with applesauce or sour cream during Hanukkah, and the hamantasch, a three-

sided, fruit-filled cookie traditionally eaten during the Jewish holiday of Purim.

Latke, Page 13



DAVID TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Dean of the School of Science, Robert Silbey, reacts to charges that Latke has less flavor at the annual Latke-Hamentashen debate held in 10-250 at 8PM on Monday, March 6.

# Laundry Monitoring to Go Online for All Dormitories

By Kevin Der  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Random Hall's decade-old, student-built laundry monitoring system may have been the first of its kind, but the rest of MIT's dormitories are about to catch up.

A new system to be implemented over the coming months will allow MIT students to use the internet to find out whether laundry machines are free before carrying their clothes to the wash.

LaundryView, already in place at schools such as Tufts University and Boston College, is an online system that allows users to view the availability of washers and dryers. Students can also use the system to receive e-mails or instant messages notifying them when machines are free and when their laundry is done. The cost of doing laundry will remain 75 cents per load, said Dennis J. Collins, assistant director of operations at MIT Housing.

Eastgate, East Campus, and Senior House will be receiving the LaundryView system by the middle

of April, Collins said. The system will be integrated in all remaining dormitories, excluding Random Hall (which operates its own laundry machines), by the end of the summer, he said.

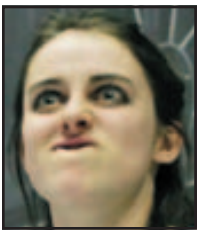
Laundry, Page 15

## In Short

¶ **Kirk D. Kolenbrander**, MIT's Vice President for Institute Affairs, has been named secretary-elect of the MIT Corporation after the Corporation voted at its meeting last Friday. Kolenbrander, who was nominated by President Susan Hockfield for the position, will assume the office on July 1.

¶ The case-sensitive URL for NW35 graduate dormitory project updates is <http://web.mit.edu/dsl/NW35>.

Send news information and tips to [news@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@the-tech.mit.edu).



The Chorallaries' 10th annual bad taste concert was on Saturday.

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## NEWS

Supreme Court rules colleges must allow military recruiters equal access.

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A memorial service for Pushpinder Singh '98, who died last Tuesday, will take place 3 p.m. Thursday, March 9 at the MIT Chapel. Singh was a postdoctoral researcher in the Media Lab and attended MIT for both his undergraduate and graduate education.



# WORLD & NATION

## DaimlerChrysler Suspends Employees in Bribery Inquiry

By Mark Landler

THE NEW YORK TIMES

FRANKFURT, GERMANY

DaimlerChrysler has dismissed or suspended several employees after an internal investigation uncovered evidence that its executives paid bribes in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe.

In a report filed on Monday with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the company said it had “determined that improper payments were made in a number of jurisdictions.” The payments, it said, could violate both German law and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act in the United States.

The Justice Department and the SEC have been investigating accusations of bribery at DaimlerChrysler since last year. The company has cooperated with the investigations, and these latest disclosures shed more light on the far-flung corruption inquiry.

The filing, however, does not answer a crucial question: Whether senior Mercedes managers knew about the payments. It does not identify the countries where bribes were paid, or say how many people were involved.

## Flu Fears Spur Research Into Virus Killers

By Stephen Smith

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Top scientists at federal health institutes, universities, and drug companies report that they are witnessing a surge of interest in finding treatments for viral infections — fueled in part by fears of a global flu epidemic.

Once, viral disease researchers rarely heard from drug development companies. Now, scientists say, they regularly get calls from companies hoping to forge partnerships in the quest to discover antiviral medicines.

Scientists say they could be at the dawn of an unprecedented period of discovery in the hunt for drugs against viruses that cause hepatitis, respiratory ailments, and more exotic diseases.

The federal government’s top disease specialist, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, said the threat of a bird flu virus that could kill millions of people has compelled scientists to reconsider their research priorities.

“This kind of attention is causing us to shake the cages,” Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said in an interview at a flu preparedness summit in Boston last month. “We’ve accepted less-than-optimal viral treatments. We’ve got to do better than that.”

## Russian Panel Backs Pipeline Near Baikal

By C.J. Chivers

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

A Russian regulatory panel reviewing plans to build an oil pipeline that would pass along the shoreline of Lake Baikal, the world’s most voluminous fresh-water lake, announced on Monday that it had approved the proposal over objections from scientists and environmental groups.

The announcement, by the Federal Environmental, Technological and Nuclear Oversight Service, will allow Transneft, the state-owned pipeline monopoly, to proceed with plans to build a pipeline to ship Siberian oil eastward to Asian markets.

The project, roughly 2,500 miles long and known as the East Siberia-Pacific Ocean pipeline, would pass within 900 yards of Lake Baikal’s northern shore.

Lake Baikal is a chasm more than a mile deep formed tens of millions of years ago by a crack in the Earth’s crust.

Nearly 400 miles long and 30 miles wide, it holds more than 20 percent of the world’s unfrozen fresh water, and is widely regarded as one of Russia’s unique natural gems.

# South Dakota Governor Signs Abortion Ban Into State Law

By Monica Davey

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Gov. Michael Rounds of South Dakota signed into law on Monday the most sweeping state abortion ban in the nation, an intentional provocation meant to set up a direct legal challenge to Roe v. Wade, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal.

The law makes it a felony to perform any abortion except in a case of a mother’s life being in jeopardy. Though it is not scheduled to go into effect until July, officials working at the state’s only abortion clinic in Sioux Falls, where about 800 abortions take place each year, said they spent much of the day consoling women.

“This is a very real issue for a lot of people,” said Kate Looby, state director of Planned Parenthood. “That’s the part I think the legislators don’t quite understand.”

Rounds, a Republican, said in a statement after signing the legislation in Pierre that it was the right thing to do. The law will also almost certainly force a showdown before it ever comes into effect, an outcome its supporters, eager to

overturn Roe, had intended.

“In the history of the world, the true test of a civilization is how well people treat the most vulnerable and most helpless in their society,” the governor said. “The sponsors and supporters of this bill believe that abortion is wrong because unborn children are the most vulnerable and most helpless persons in our society. I agree with them.”

Around the country, abortion rights advocates responded with fury, calling the new law “blatantly unconstitutional,” dangerous and counter to what a majority of Americans would support. Planned Parenthood, which operates the only abortion clinic in South Dakota, pledged to use every means necessary — whether a lawsuit or a statewide referendum — to sideline the statute.

Under state law, if opponents collect 16,728 signatures in the next three months the law will be put on hold until the November election.

“We’re trying to evaluate the timing and the options now, but we’re committed to making sure this does not come into effect,” Cecile Richards, the president of Planned

Parenthood Federation of America, said in a telephone interview. “It’s a sad day for the women of South Dakota. We had really hoped that the governor would weigh women’s health as more important than politics.”

Leaders on each sides of the abortion debate said that South Dakota’s law had stirred new support and fervor for their causes. Abortion rights advocates reported a flood of donations and volunteers and membership requests since the proposed law began drawing national attention last month. Opponents said they, too, had had a flood of calls, including numerous donations to a defense fund to fight what is expected to be expensive litigation on behalf of South Dakota.

Already, the state’s move seems to have emboldened legislators opposed to abortion elsewhere. For months, similar bills had been proposed in the statehouses of at least a half-dozen states, including Ohio, Georgia and Tennessee, but some efforts have gained steam in the weeks after the South Dakota Legislature overwhelmingly passed its ban last month.

# Prosecutors Ask Jury for Death Sentence in Moussaoui’s Trial

By Neil A. Lewis

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

A federal prosecutor on Monday asked a jury to sentence Zacarias Moussaoui to death, saying that his willful decision to conceal his knowledge of the Sept. 11 terrorist plot when he was arrested weeks earlier made him responsible for the thousands of deaths that day.

In response, a court-appointed lawyer for Moussaoui told jurors they could not order the execution of a man on no more than a supposition: that had he revealed his knowledge of al-Qaida’s interest in flying planes into public buildings, the federal authorities would have prevented the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Moussaoui, a 37-year-old Frenchman of Moroccan heritage, is the only person to be charged in the U.S. justice system with direct involvement

in the Sept. 11 attacks. He was in jail on that day, having been arrested three weeks earlier in Minnesota on immigration charges while he was taking flying lessons.

He has pleaded guilty to six conspiracy counts and admitted that he was taking flight training to be available for a Qaida campaign to fly aircraft into buildings. But he has insisted that he was not part of the Sept. 11 plot and did not deserve to die.

Because he has pleaded guilty, the trial that got under way on Monday is solely over whether he is to be executed by lethal injection at a federal prison in Indiana or spend his life in prison.

In their opening statements, lawyers for the government and for Moussaoui presented starkly different portraits of his importance to al-Qaida’s plans to wage war on the United States.

Robert Spencer, an assistant U.S. attorney, told the jury that Moussaoui was “in the thick of the plot” but that because he had been arrested, his contribution to the attacks “in the end was to lie so his al-Qaida brothers could go forward.”

Spencer said that had Moussaoui told a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent in August what he knew about al-Qaida’s plans, the bureau and the Federal Aviation Administration would have gone on full alert and taken steps to hunt down the hijackers and increased security at the nation’s airports.

He said documents recovered from Moussaoui’s home after Sept. 11 provided valuable clues that would have led directly to many of the 19 hijackers of that day.

“He killed the 9/11 victims as surely as if he had been at the controls in one of those airplanes,” Spencer said.

# WEATHER

## Breaking the Ice

By Brian H. Tang

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The weather patterns that have led to the habitual colder and windier than normal weather are finally breaking down. This may be bad news for skiers and snowboarders, but good news for those who have to pay their own heating bill. Fairly benign weather will rule the next couple of days with the exception of this morning when a very weak disturbance moves down the coast. A few flurries may fall from the morning clouds, but most likely none of the white stuff will fall from the sky.

The pattern that led to the above normal temperatures in January is making a comeback. Specifically, a big trough will develop in the West, keeping our friends out on the Pacific Coast stormy, while a big ridge builds over the western Atlantic. The southerly flow around that ridge will transport warmer air towards New England. Hence, we’re in for a period of above normal temperatures interspersed with light rain showers, but no major storms. The first chance of rain will come on Thursday along a warm front, and herald the arrival of the Spring-like air mass. You can put those gloves away soon!

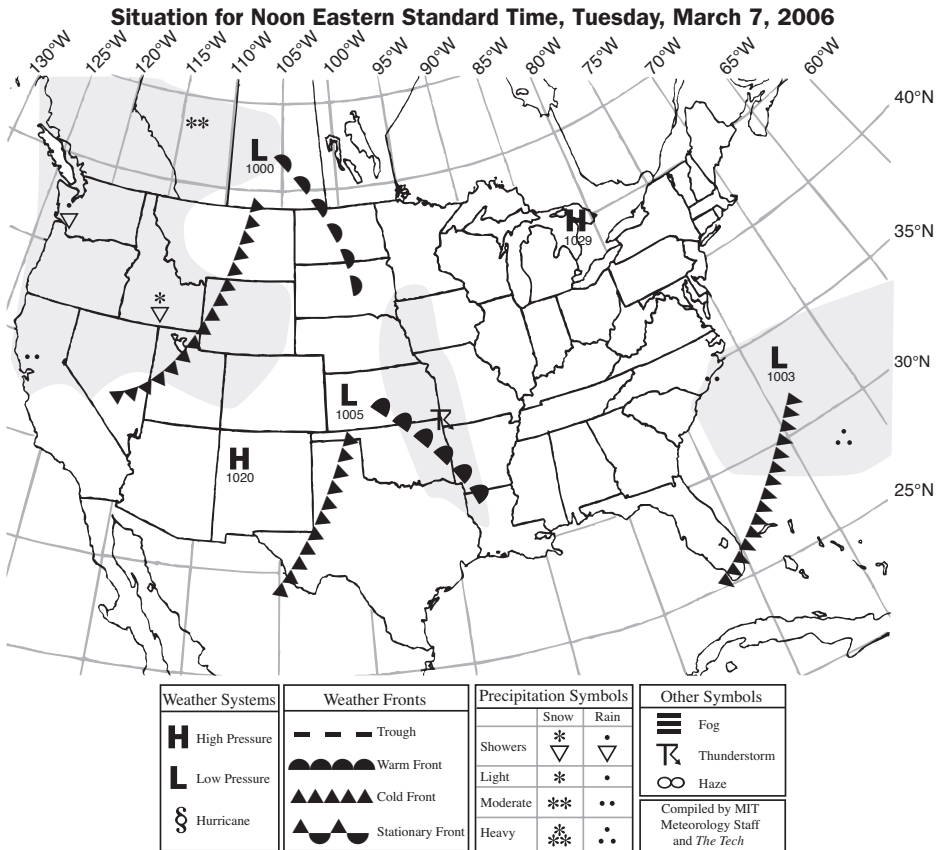
### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Mostly cloudy in the morning with scattered flurries, otherwise mostly sunny. Light north winds. High 37°F (3°C).

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy. Low 24°F (-4°C).

**Tomorrow:** Mostly sunny. High 40°F (4°C).

**Thursday:** Increasing clouds with a chance of rain showers in the afternoon. High 44°F (7°C). Low 26°F (-3°C).



# Hamas Legislators Vote to Strip PLO President of Some Powers

By Greg Myre  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

In the first working session of the new Palestinian parliament, Hamas lawmakers voted overwhelmingly on Monday to strip the president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, of the expanded powers he had been granted by the legislature before Hamas took control of it.

Shortly after the session began, it degenerated into shouting matches between the rival Hamas and Fatah factions, with Fatah legislators ultimately storming out. After the walkout, lawmakers from Hamas, the radical Islamic faction, voted to nullify all actions taken in February in the final session of the previous legislature, including the decision to give Abbas additional authority.

In violence on Monday, an Israeli airstrike on a vehicle killed five people in Gaza City: two Islamic Jihad members, who were the targets, and three young bystanders, Palestinian witnesses and medical workers said.

As for the discord in parliament, Azzam al-Ahmed, the head of the Fatah bloc, said, “We have tried

through dialogue and contacts with Hamas to resolve this issue, but they are insisting on domination.”

Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, a senior Hamas leader, said, “Every time we present an important point, Azzam al-Ahmed stands up and tries to disrupt our work.”

For the most part, Hamas and Fatah have spoken of each other in respectful tones since the Hamas election victory in January, which toppled Fatah, the secular nationalist movement that dominated Palestinian politics for decades. Hamas won 74 of the 132 seats; Fatah captured only 45.

Hamas has invited Fatah and other factions to join the Cabinet. But Monday’s stormy session pointed to the likelihood of a tense, confrontational relationship, and seemed to rule out the already remote prospect that Fatah might take part.

Monday’s events also did not augur well for Abbas, the Fatah leader, who remains president and will have to work with the Hamas-led Cabinet.

On Feb. 13, more than two weeks after the election and only five days

before the new parliament was sworn in, Fatah lawmakers in the departing parliament gave additional authority to Abbas.

The most controversial move formed a nine-judge constitutional court, to be appointed by the president. The court would have the power to strike down laws judged to violate the Basic Law, which effectively serves as the constitution for the Palestinian Authority. Abbas would then be able to work through the court to veto laws passed by Hamas legislators, according to Hamas.

Fatah lawmakers argued Monday that the session last month was legitimate. But in the view of Hamas, the measures passed in the final session were not valid because many lawmakers had already been voted out of office.

Because Israel has barred many legislators from traveling, those from the Gaza Strip gathered in Gaza City, while West Bank legislators met in Ramallah. They were connected in a video conference, which has become the norm for such sessions.

## Leaders Trade Barbs Over Fight Against Taliban

By Carlotta Gall

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN,

President Pervez Musharraf lashed out Monday at President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan for “bad-mouthing” Pakistan in recent weeks and casting doubt on its commitment to fight terrorism.

In a speech to Pakistani journalists in Rawalpindi that was broadcast on state television, Musharraf accused India of feeding false information to Afghan officials suggesting that the Pakistani intelligence agency was training terrorists.

He dismissed the allegation, and he described as “nonsense” a list of Taliban members, including the leader, Mullah Muhammad Omar, who Karzai said were operating in Pakistan.

The comments, echoing a message Musharraf has delivered in recent interviews, point not just to a new low in relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, but also to difficulties with the United States.

President Bush visited both Afghanistan and Pakistan last week, and Musharraf said he had sought to discredit the Afghan allegations in his meeting with Bush.

“The bad-mouthing against Pakistan is a deliberate, articulated conspiracy,” Musharraf said. The Karzai administration, after several years of careful diplomacy with Pakistan, has become increasingly outspoken as violence has increased, including suicide bombings, beheadings and roadside bombs. Karzai came to Islamabad two weeks ago, and handed over what he said were intelligence files on Taliban and others who, he said, were operating in Pakistan.

## Genetic Tie-In Seen in Binge Eating

By Carey Goldberg

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Binge eating disorder, a frequent compulsion for out-of-control eating that goes far beyond the point of feeling satiated, now appears to run in families — and that genetic heritage may help explain a piece of the current obesity epidemic, researchers reported Monday.

A new study has found that a person is twice as likely to binge eat if he or she has a relative who also has the disorder. The study of 300 overweight people and nearly 900 of their family members also found that having a binge-eating relative more than doubles a person’s chances of becoming severely obese.

Binge-eating disorder is a psychiatric diagnosis that includes major eating jags - the whole plate of brownies, the whole gallon of ice cream — at least twice a week for months, and causes terrible distress for the eater. The study’s powerful new evidence suggests that “some forms of obesity may be due to a chemical imbalance in the brain — which is likely hereditary — rather than just a disorder of metabolism in the body,” said Dr. James I. Hudson of Harvard’s McLean Hospital, lead author of the new paper.

It is not clear what that brain abnormality is, Hudson said. It could have to do with a built-in tendency to act impulsively, or a hard-wired propensity to overeat, or even mood disorders such as depression, which often accompany binge-eating. But it does seem clear that in the current American environment of over-plentiful food and sedentary living, people with such a flaw would be especially likely to grow and stay fat, he said.

## Delay Opponents Use a Movie

By David M. Halbfinger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES

A documentary about the Texas criminal investigation that led to the indictment of Republican Rep. Tom DeLay, the former House majority leader, on campaign fundraising charges is being put to use by DeLay’s political opponents in an attempt to unseat him.

The film, “The Big Buy: How Tom DeLay Stole Congress,” will be distributed this spring by the Hollywood producer and liberal provocateur Robert Greenwald, whose last release was a scathing attack on Wal-Mart sponsored by a variety of labor unions and other groups critical of the retailing giant.

A host of liberal organizations in Texas and nationwide, including People for the American Way, Democracy for America and the Pacifica radio station in Houston, are expected to sponsor the film’s release. It will not follow a traditional theatrical rollout but will instead open in a few cities before being made widely available on DVD, as was the Wal-Mart movie, Greenwald said in an interview.

An important aspect of the release plan is to organize hundreds, if not thousands, of house parties in May and June at which the movie will be shown, Greenwald said. The distribution strategy is to be detailed on Tuesday — primary day in Texas — as a “welcoming gift” to DeLay, he said.

DeLay’s lawyer, Dick DeGuerin, called the movie, an early version of which he had seen, a “hatchet job,” and said he had refused to sit down with the filmmakers for an interview.

## Long Before Burying Pompeii, Vesuvius Blew Its Top

By John Noble Wilford

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Pompeii spreads out as a set for the grand finale staged by Mount Vesuvius, but it appears to have been more of an encore.

Geologists and archaeologists are reporting new research on Tuesday showing, they said, that the volcano erupted with even greater power and range nearly 4,000 years ago, in the Bronze Age. The findings, they add, are not reassuring to Naples and its metropolitan population of 3 million.

Digging into sediments west, north and east of Vesuvius, Italian and American scientists uncovered beds of volcanic ash and pumice that buried land and villages around 1780 B.C. The devastation extended 15 miles from the volcano, the first evidence that a Vesuvius eruption ever spread so far and into the Neopolitan region and beyond.

Pompeii, the luxurious resort of wealthy Romans and now the most famous still-life of volcanic doom, is just five miles southwest of Vesuvius. It was buried almost instantly in the eruption of A.D. 79.

Although the loss of life and property was less in the Bronze Age event, owing to the sparse settlement, archaeologists investigating the sediments, more than three feet deep, found poignant evidence of panic — tracks of thousands of footprints made in the ash, all leading away from the volcano.

# Deep Rift Emerges Between West, Russia’s Views About Nuclear Iran

By Elaine Sciolino

THE NEW YORK TIMES

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

A serious split emerged Monday between Russia and the United States and Europe on Iran’s nuclear program after the Russians floated a last-minute proposal to allow Iran to make small quantities of nuclear fuel, according to European officials.

The reports of the proposal prompted Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to call Mohamed El-Baradei, the director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and according to an administration official who was briefed on the conversation, “she said the United States cannot support this.”

Rice’s call came after ElBaradei suggested to reporters that the standoff with Iran could be resolved in a week or so, apparently an allusion to the Russian proposal. Washington’s strategy is to get past the meeting of the IAEA that opened Monday and, under a resolution passed by the agency’s board in February, have the issue turned over to the U.N. Security Council

immediately. But officials clearly fear that the Russian proposal is intended to slow that process.

American officials said they had been assured by the Russians that there was no formal proposal on the table. The Russian foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, was to have dinner in Washington on Monday evening with Rice and the national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, and he is scheduled to meet President Bush in the Oval Office on Tuesday.

Under the Russian proposal, Iran would temporarily suspend all uranium enrichment activities at its facility at Natanz but then be allowed to do what Russia describes as “limited research activities” in Iran’s uranium enrichment program, said the European officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity under normal diplomatic rules.

Iran would have to agree to a moratorium on production of enriched uranium on an industrial scale for between seven to nine years, ratify additional measures that let the nuclear agency conduct intrusive inspections of its nuclear facilities and create a joint venture

with Russia on the production of enriched uranium on Russian soil, the officials said. The proposal, which has not been made public, spurred ElBaradei to give an upbeat assessment about a possible swift resolution of the impasse over Iran’s program, an official familiar with his thinking said.

In a tonal shift, ElBaradei said Iran had made concessions on some issues. Calling Iran’s activities at its uranium enrichment plant at Natanz “the sticking point,” he added, “That issue is still being discussed this week, and I still hope that in the next week or so that agreement could still be reached.”

In an interview on Monday evening, R. Nicholas Burns, the under secretary of state for political affairs, said the administration would reject any proposal that did not require the Iranians to stop domestic nuclear enrichment and reprocessing activities. “The United States will not support any halfway measures,” he said. “That means full suspension of all nuclear activities, and a return to negotiations on that basis.”

# Changing Regions of Genome Suggest Evolution is Still Occurring in Humans

By Nicholas Wade

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Providing the strongest evidence yet that human beings are still evolving, researchers have detected some 700 regions of the human genome where genes appear to have been reshaped by natural selection, a principal force of evolution, within the last 5,000 to 15,000 years.

The genes that show this evolutionary change include some responsible for the senses of taste and smell, digestion, bone structure, skin color and brain function.

Many of these instances of selection may reflect the pressures that came to bear as people abandoned hunting and gathering for settlements and agriculture, a transition well under way in Europe and East Asia some 5,000 years ago.

Under natural selection, beneficial genes become more common in a population as their owners have more progeny.

Three populations were studied, Africans, East Asians and Europeans. In each, a mostly different set of genes had been favored by natu-

ral selection. The selected genes, which affect skin color, hair texture and bone structure, may underlie the present-day differences in racial appearance.

The study of selected genes may help physical anthropologists explain why people over the world have a such a variety of distinctive appearances, even though their genes are on the whole very similar, said Spencer Wells, director of the Genographic project of the National Geographic Society.

The finding adds substantially to the evidence that human evolution did not grind to a halt in the distant past, as is tacitly assumed by many social scientists. Even evolutionary psychologists, who interpret human behavior in terms of what the brain evolved to do, hold that the work of natural selection in shaping the human mind was completed in the pre-agricultural past, more than 10,000 years ago.

“There is ample evidence that selection has been a major driving point in our evolution during the last 10,000 years, and there is no reason

to suppose that it has stopped,” said Jonathan Pritchard, a population geneticist at the University of Chicago who headed the study. He and his colleagues, Benjamin Voight, Sridhar Kudaravalli and Xiaoquan Wen, report their findings in Tuesday’s issue of PLoS-Biology, a peer-reviewed, open-access journal published by the Public Library of Science, a nonprofit organization.

The researchers’ data is based on DNA changes in three populations gathered by the HapMap project, a venture that built on the decoding of the human genome in 2003. The data, though collected to help identify variant genes that contribute to disease, also provide evidence of evolutionary change.

The fingerprints of natural selection in DNA are hard to recognize. Just a handful of recently selected genes have previously been identified, like those that confer resistance to malaria or the ability to digest lactose in adulthood, an adaptation common in northern Europeans whose ancestors thrived on cattle milk.



# OPINION

## Letters To The Editor

### Speculation on Singh Was Inappropriate

As a community, we are shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of our dear colleague and friend Push Singh. It is a time when the Media Lab and the entire MIT community gather to offer the family, girlfriend and friends of Push support and compassion.

It is therefore with great distress that I read your report speculating about the circumstances of Push's death. Quoting an uninformed individual guessing as to the cause of death is thoughtless, unprofessional and unnecessary. I am at a loss to understand the motivation behind such a disclosure. If the aim of your newspaper is to report the truth accurately, please consider first approaching the appropriate sources who can furnish you with verifiable information. It is then your choice to decide how to best deliver the story in a respectful, compassionate and human way.

Aisling M. Kelliher G

*Editors' Response: We certainly do aim to report as accurately as possible, and this case was no exception. In our efforts to find out*

*more about the circumstances surrounding Mr. Singh's death, we contacted the MIT Police, the Middlesex County District Attorney's office, and several of Mr. Singh's friends, mentors, and colleagues. In most cases, they declined to comment. However, one of these sources did raise a cause of death that was consistent with other information we had, so we felt that this was worth reporting.*

### Stata Center Rocks

I love the Stata Center. Ruth Miller's half-page manifesto using the coolest building on campus as an analogy for everything wrong with "MIT planning" broke my heart.

When I first saw the campus as a prefrish, the Stata Center, with its multi-hued intricacy and parts fitted together with ingenuity and humor, blew my mind. Ridiculous as it sounds, this was probably a small detail that tipped my decision to come to MIT, especially as I thought, at the time, that it was one of the ugliest campuses I've visited.

Everyone is entitled to an artistic opinion (of course). There are some of us, though, who don't think that buildings that are not rectangular cement blocks resemble "tumors."

Hui Ying Wen '08

## Editor's Note

The Tech's Editorial Board will not endorse an Undergraduate Association President and Vice President ticket this year because of a conflict of interest. Two Tech staff members — Ruth Miller, an opinion editor and member of the Editorial Board, and Chris Cabral, a Campus Life writer — are running for election this year, preventing unbiased evaluation of the candidates' abilities. The Opinion section still welcomes endorsements and criticisms from other MIT community members sent to [letters@tt.mit.edu](mailto:letters@tt.mit.edu). Ruth Miller has recused herself from editing any such submissions.

The Editorial Board

## Corrections

The March 3 article "MacVicar Fellows Selected" incorrectly identified Professor Samuel A. Bowring's department. It is Course 12 (Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences), not Course 7 (Biology).

The caption for the photograph on page 12 of the Feb. 28 issue was incorrect — Tal Goldenberg '09 is on the right, and Courtney E. Lane is center, obscured, not the other way around.



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"Three attendees want to start the meeting with a Christian prayer, two would prefer a verse from the Quran, and one guy wants to sacrifice a goat."

## Opinion Policy

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, opinion editors, a senior editor, and an opinion staffer.

**Dissents** are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

**Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to [letters@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@the-tech.mit.edu). Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

*The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

**Guest columns** are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

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# The Next New Thing in Housing?

Jeffrey Roberts

Apparently, MIT has decided to act on its long-anticipated plan to expand and upgrade the housing system. Assuming that this plan moves

## Spotlight on Housing

forward, there are many important questions that will need to be answered — and it’s not too soon to start thinking about them. Having some experience with a prior expansion of MIT’s housing system, primarily as a member of the Founders Group for Simmons Hall, I’ll try to explain what I think are some of the key issues. I’ll focus on undergraduate housing, though I think the core ideas are applicable to graduate housing as well.

MIT will be fully renovating three dorms for undergraduate use, if we assume a refitted Ashdown building will be used to house students temporarily while East Campus, and later Burton-Conner, are renovated. As far as I know, the last time MIT tried such a plan was when Burton-Conner was renovated in the 1960s. In that case, the “temporary housing” used in the move became what we know as Random Hall today.

MIT has assembled a somewhat eclectic collection of undergraduate housing over the 90-year life of the campus. Every dorm is different, and most have added something new to the system, often as a reflection of the trends of the time. Baker House in the 1940s was the first dorm designed to include commons dining and social spaces, in some ways mimicking the “river houses” being developed at Harvard around the same time. MacGregor introduced the “entry/suite” system in the 1960s; renovations to East

Campus and Burton-Conner followed variations on this model. New House in the 1970s reflected a trend towards “independent” housing.

Simmons Hall, the most recent example, was meant to embody the goals articulated by MIT’s Task Force on Student Life and Learning, which encouraged MIT to look at social interaction within the residences as an integral part of the educational experience. The Residential Scholar apartments are probably the most interesting innovation, but Simmons Hall also demonstrates a renewed interest in the “house” approach with its extensive commons area.

Some people might be interested to know that the original plan had Simmons Hall divided

*If you want to have a say,  
you need to speak up.  
You need to speak loudly,  
to the right audience.*

from other dorms, and what will it contribute to the system as a whole? What about East Campus and Burton-Conner? Keep in mind that the way they are now is not the way they were before their renovations in the 1960s.

Dorms aren’t just physical spaces, though; at MIT they are cultures in themselves. What got me involved with Simmons Hall design in 1998 was seeing the strong residential cultures that existed at MIT, and wondering how those cultures began.

With Simmons Hall, we were starting from scratch. Among other things, we had to answer the fundamental question of who should live there. We decided that a four-year community

was essential to form the basis of a strong residential culture, meaning that we needed to recruit sophomores, juniors, and seniors to move into the building, or it would become a “freshmen dorm” by default.

Though this new plan might not involve “starting from scratch,” there are still such questions to consider. What will East Campus culture be like in Ashdown? Will the individual halls be preserved, or will they adapt? Will all East Campus residents want to move there? Will they all want to move back? Ditto for Burton-Conner. When all is said and done, what will the “New Riverbank” culture look like? Will it be all, or mostly, freshmen? Or will enough upperclassmen from East Campus and Burton Conner stick around to help “seed” the new community?

But the most critical question is: Who will answer these questions? Students might be surprised at how much influence they actually have.

# Lukmann/Miller Pair Combines Knowledge With Eye for Reform

Ali S. Wyne

“Who’s your running mate, Andrew?”  
“Take a guess.”  
“Oh, I don’t know, one of the Senators, or maybe an [Undergraduate Association] insider?”

Andrew Lukmann — with whom I have worked for the past year — chuckled, and responded. “Nope. I’m running with Ruth Miller.”  
“Ruth Miller? The Ruth Miller?”  
“Yup.”

Many of you will recall that Ruth Miller, an editor of *The Tech’s* opinion section, penned a searing indictment of the UA’s inefficiencies in the Oct. 14 issue, titled “UA? No Way!” Her article certainly aroused great concern in the UA, principally because it encapsulated the opinions that prevailed among large segments of the student body.

The media and the government, at least in theory, maintain an adversarial relationship and, accordingly, the idea of having a member of each run together is highly unusual.

That being said, however, I could not have conceived of, or hoped for, a more perfect ticket. Andrew is more informed about the UA’s structure, complexities, and areas where reform is most crucial than anyone else I know. Even a short conversation with him will confirm this assertion. Where laxity and apathy often prevail, Andrew is committed to improving MIT, and has accumulated a series of impressive accomplishments during his tenure as a student body representative. The depth of his knowledge is hardly coincidental; indeed, each of his extra-curricular activities involves some aspect of student government. He serves as the Speaker of the UA Senate and President of Simmons Hall, and is actively involved with the Faculty Policy Committee, the Dormitory Council, and the Campus Activities Complex Advisory Board, among other important groups.

There are three attributes, in particular, that make him an ideal candidate for UA President: his attention to detail, his ability to fulfill responsibilities far beyond his own, and his com-

mitment to realizing goals. The position of Senate Speaker is demanding enough; however, his performance has surpassed all reasonable expectations, and he has admirably intervened when leadership in various branches of the UA government has been deficient, or altogether absent.

Furthermore, Andrew is unique in that he has gained the respect not only of virtually every administrator with whom he has worked, but also of his constituents. The call to reduce the chasm between the administration and students has become tiresome, if only because no one heretofore has been sufficiently qualified or committed to achieve this objective. If anyone is capable of realizing this important aim, Andrew is.

Ruth’s principal advantage is her ability to impart an outsider’s perspective. Members of

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with some notable exceptions,  
is in critical need of a thorough  
appraisal and, to my mind,  
tremendous improvement.*

organizations are oftentimes unable or unwilling to see their failings, thereby precluding them from becoming agents of change. Removed from the UA, and unencumbered by the burden of defending every one of its principles and practices, she is well suited to provide an objective view of the UA’s performance. Furthermore, she is likely a far better judge of student opinion on campus issues than most members of the UA, who, as noted earlier, are more inclined to dismiss student voices or misconstrue them as supportive when they are actually critical. While I may not agree with every point she issued in her piece, I do not hesitate to admit that it contained many accurate assessments. It is not surprising, then, that it elicited only one printed rejoinder and, in my experience, far more murmurs of assent, even among those who would prefer to dismiss

# Rogue Leader

restraints more severe.

Torture, or not? If Bawazir’s claims of torture are true, the actions would be illegal under the recent McCain amendment. The Bush administration doesn’t disagree, exactly. Rather, its argument is that Bawazir, an “enemy combatant,” lacks the legal standing to bring his case to court. Therefore, the legality of his treatment is quite irrelevant. Isn’t that cute?

Or consider this: in 2004, the US Supreme

its argumentation.

Lest the reader perceive me as naïve or idealistic, I readily admit to having developed a measure of skepticism about candidates who purport to be interested in improving student life or who are otherwise overly optimistic about student government. Very rarely does a given candidate or set of candidates compel me to dispel such cynicism. The prospect of Andrew and Ruth’s ascending to the UA’s top two positions, however, has reaffirmed my hopes for a transparent, responsive, and effective student government.

At this juncture, UA governance, with some notable exceptions, is in critical need of a thorough appraisal and, to my mind, tremendous improvement. Those individuals who assume positions of leadership must recognize that power confers responsibility and perhaps more importantly, that one must use the prestige of a given position to advance an agenda that is directly related to the position’s express mandate. Unfortunately, these lessons (truisms, I would argue) have routinely been ignored in the recent past, with the result that the UA once again finds itself regarded as a bureaucratic organization that accords preferential treatment to its vested interests rather than to the principal concerns of the student body.

Over the course of the past two years, I have probably had hundreds of conversations with students from dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups. The unanimity with which they express indifference to or disdain for student government is a source of concern that urgently needs to be addressed.

Andrew and Ruth, albeit in different capacities, have served as friends, educators, and mentors. The same qualities by which they have gained my respect, and that of so many others, would doubtless serve them well as UA President and Vice President. They will serve as advocates not only in theory, but also, far more importantly, in practice.

I heartily avow my support for Andrew Lukmann and Ruth Miller, and am confident that as students learn more about each pair of candidates, they will render the same judgment.

*Ali Wyne '07 is the UA Senate Vice Chair.*

Court made a landmark ruling in the case of Rasul v. Bush. Rasul had been held at Guantanamo for two years without being charged and without access to a lawyer. He claimed that he had the legal right to challenge his incarceration in the US court system. The Supreme Court upheld this right.

The Bush administration had lost the right to detain “enemy combatants” indefinitely

After all, MIT relies largely on its students to keep the housing system in working order. The fact that students take responsibility for the social, and in some ways operational, activities of a dorm is invaluable to MIT. Moreover, if students do not take this responsibility, a dorm community can become unhealthy or self-destructive, presenting a huge problem for the Institute.

The Founders Group was certainly not the only group of individuals with opinions about Simmons Hall. It could have very easily been a freshmen dorm; it could have been governed by a board of faculty “overseers” instead of by students; it could have been a testing ground for pet projects of the administration. Before the dorm was built, I heard mentioned a number of times the sentiment that since it had no existing culture, it would be easier to put new programs in place. But because there were students on the Founders Group who were committed to the project, and who had assumed the responsibility of representing the Simmons Hall community before it really existed, it was virtually impossible to implement programs without students buying in.

One of the things I’ve continually heard in the discussion on housing is that students want to “have a say” in the outcome. If the experience of being involved with MIT housing has taught me anything, it’s that no one “gives” you a say in anything. If you want to have a say, you need to speak up. You need to speak loudly, to the right audience. You need to be persistent, but willing to negotiate and compromise. You also need to have a vision for what you want — not just what you don’t want — and you need to take some responsibility for making it happen. If you pass up this responsibility, then the administration answers the important questions for you.

*Jeffrey Roberts MCP '03 is a former Dormitory Council president.*

# Covering Suicides in The Tech

Beckett W. Sterner

News stories about MIT community members who have committed suicide are distressing to everyone involved. Why, then, does *The Tech* keep writing (or attempting to write) them? Having reported a number of those articles in my time as a news staffer and editor for *The Tech*, I’ll do my best to add an inside perspective. What follows is my opinion solely, and not necessarily anyone else’s at The Tech.

MIT is a happy place for many, but not all. Over the past 40 years, we’ve had about 50 suicides, depending on the accuracy of *The Tech’s* records and how you count. Unfortunately, this puts MIT above the average for other universities and means that mental health is a big, perennial issue for the community. Although MIT has many skilled staff and administrators who care deeply about students, it became painfully clear with Elizabeth Shin’s suicide in 2000 that MIT needed to do much more. (I

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then, a public record of suicides  
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the Institute’s health  
as a community.*


should note that some have questioned whether her death by self-inflicted burns alone in her room can be proved a suicide.) Shin’s suicide galvanized the MIT administration to re-examine MIT Medical’s mental health program in a task force report, some but not all of which has been implemented. At a deeply impersonal level, then, a public record of suicides at MIT is important to assessing the Institute’s health as a community.

Unfortunately, MIT does not, and in some cases, cannot provide this public record. Federal law prevents administrators and doctors from discussing details of their interactions with a student that could reveal that student’s identity, and other laws make parts of a person’s medical records confidential. That said, MIT is not confronting its problem of mental health in the same publicly open way in which it acknowledged its problem of sexism ten years ago. No statistics are easily available to the public on the number of suicides at MIT in the last X num-





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The Tech, from Page 5

ber of years, attempted suicides, or diagnosed cases of depression, although in 2000 The Tech did obtain long-term statistics from Dean Robert M. Randolph on suicides (see <http://www-tech.mit.edu/V120/N6/comp6.6n.html>). When I last checked a year ago, however, MIT didn't even explicitly track the number of students it sent for mental health evaluation at McLean Hospital. While many at MIT may privately spend hours every day helping those in need of care, I can't but suspect that in public it's just more convenient to deal with the issue only as necessary.

Sadly, "as necessary" often means whenever the *Boston Globe* or *The Tech* find out a student has committed suicide. Neither has done an exceptional job of reporting about mental health at MIT in the last few years — at The Tech, mainly because student reporters have trouble understanding the big picture before they graduate (the *Globe* has a similar problem with staff turnover in their Higher Ed section). This means that the issue, and any discussion surrounding it, is usually focused on a particu-

Bush, from Page 5

without charge at Guantanamo Bay. So they complied with the letter of the ruling — by detaining "enemy combatants" indefinitely without charge at Bagram, in Afghanistan. Since 2004, the number of detainees at the Bagram facility has quintupled, while transfers to Guantanamo Bay have stopped completely.

One group of Bagram detainees is particularly troublesome: transfers from CIA "black sites." The problem is that these sites have not been officially acknowledged, and their legal status is unclear. When McCain's anti-torture amendment was being voted on in the Senate, Cheney asked for an exception for the CIA, so it is probable that the CIA is or was using torture at these "black sites." These issues could put the Bush administration in some legal trouble if they ever made it to court, so it is apparently easier just to detain people indefinitely without rights.

We are faced here with a rogue administration. It acts in contravention of established law, using the most tenuous and weaselly of excuses, and its actions are bringing shame and infamy to the United States. It is high time, I think, for the United States to eat its Brussels sprouts. We must hold George W. Bush accountable to law, by impeachment if necessary.

Are Bush's actions really so bad? And do we really need to hold him accountable? In both cases, the answer is yes.

Bush's actions are outrageous for sev-

# A Difficult Topic

lar, recent suicide. Thus, although *The Tech's* coverage of suicides provides the most comprehensive public record available, the coverage is unduly dominated by the personal details of those who have died.

What The Tech writes about suicides, and deaths in general, often sparks the most controversy and unhappiness. While the circumstances of a suicide are often the last thing we want to remember about a person, how someone died is an unavoidable question in both a news story and an obituary. Briefly, The Tech recently has used two formats to cover deaths: first the news story about the death itself, then an obituary about the person. Ideally, but not always, both get written. One reason to split the two is that it allows the reporter to do a more detailed job of writing the obituary, especially if the death happens close to the paper's deadline.

More generally, the seriousness of any death makes gaps in the reporting of a story even more glaring. There's no real excuse for incomplete reporting in these cases, but having written a number of stories about deaths or suicides, I can try to explain why it happens. Obviously, the first difficulty is that often no

one wants to talk to a reporter about anything negative regarding the person who has died. If they do talk they often only agree to do so off the record, meaning that the reporter cannot publish the information given by that source; in many of the stories I've written, I've known a decent amount more than I could write in the story. The second problem is that the official records, such as the medical examiner's report, for example, are not public. When you add in the unpleasantness of coaxing the information you need from a friend or relative of someone who just died, news articles about suicides and other deaths are often the most difficult for a reporter to write.

None of this changes the fact that these stories require the highest level of care and effort, but hopefully it provides context for what the News Department has done in the past. Personally, I believe MIT administrators and MIT Medical need to take a more public and active role in acknowledging and addressing the problem of mental health at the Institute. In the meantime, The Tech is beholden to continue documenting every suicide at MIT in the most sensitive and complete way possible.

# Impeachment as Punishment

eral reasons. For me, the strongest reason is that he violates the human rights of those he would label as terrorists. Of course, such an argument is unlikely to convince the 61 percent of Americans who support torture in at least some situations.

Still, there are more pragmatic arguments against Bush's actions abroad. First, there is the international response. We are bound to anger some of our allies through these actions; for example, Britain can not have been happy to have had its citizens incarcerated at Guantanamo. More to the point, there is the reaction of the Middle East, and of Iraq.

*Mere laws, without the will to enforce them, determine nothing.*

What message do we send to Iraq, where we hope to foster democracy, if our own leader acts as if he is above our laws? If our own leader commits torture and dodges the principle of due process? If our own leader hold himself above international agreements on human rights? What sort of democracy do we expect them to create, by following our example?

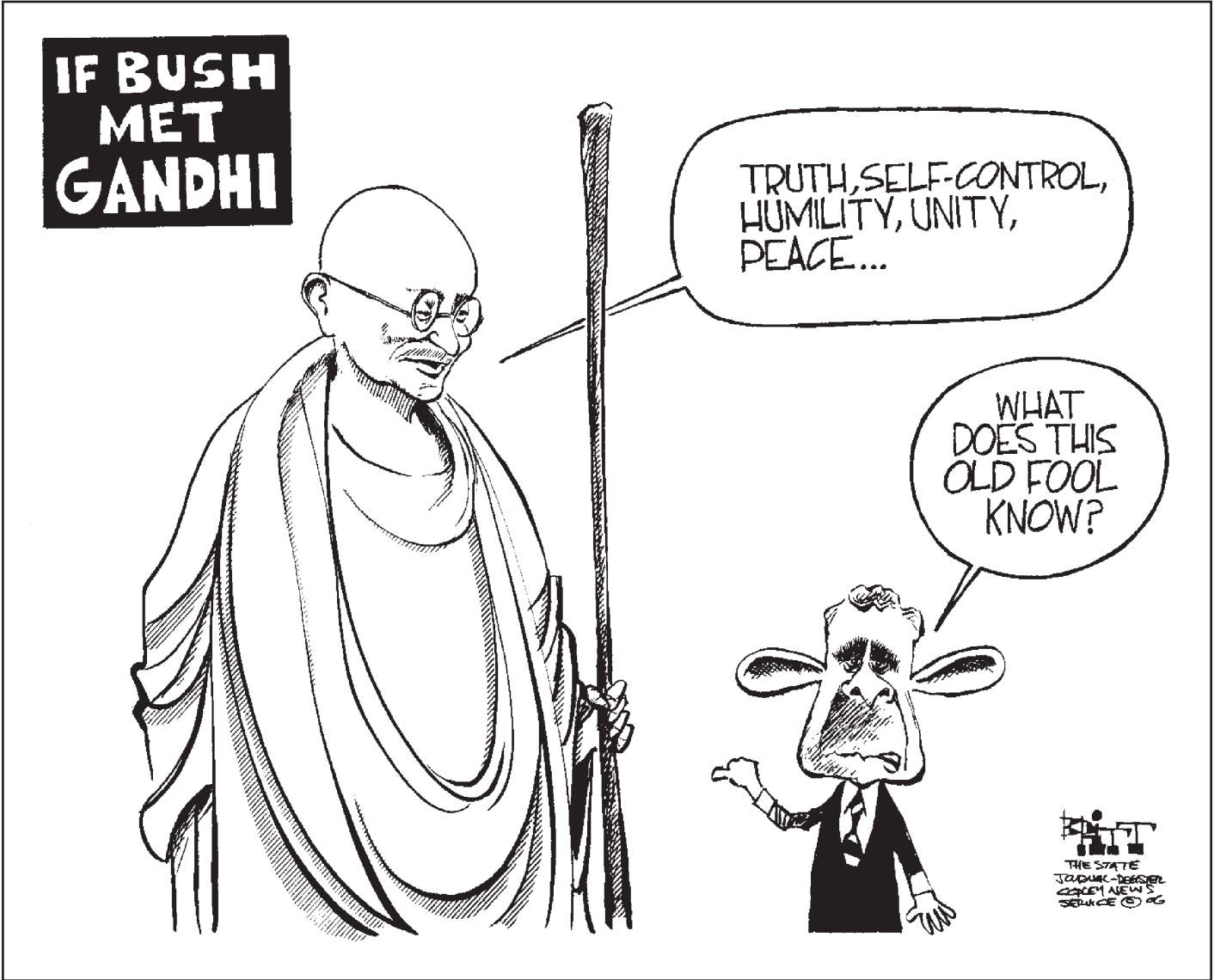
Some sort of answer was given recently when Faik Bakir, director of the Baghdad Morgue, revealed that the morgue had been receiving thousands of bodies exhibiting evidence of torture and murder. The killings have apparently been carried out by "death

squads," with ties to groups within the Iraq government. Perhaps it is not as bleak as it seems. Perhaps these "death squads" had declared the victims to be "enemy combatants."

Surely, the desire to set an example for the world should motivate us to cease our inhumane practices. But quite aside from the problem of international reaction, there is the principle of checks and balances to be considered. Bush has declared himself to be above the law. Our constitution is obviously not intended to support this. The Framers realized more than two hundred years ago that the only way to prevent tyranny was to make sure that no man was above the law. This was precisely why the powers of the legislative and judicial branches were balanced against those of the executive, and it is precisely these checks on executive power which Bush is now ignoring.

Nor can we hope to hold Bush accountable without substantial punitive action, most likely impeachment. The legislature can certainly pass laws telling Bush what he can and cannot do. But mere laws, without the will to enforce them, determine nothing. Congress forbade wiretaps, but Bush proceeded with them anyway. Congress forbade torture, but Bush is using it anyway. It is clear that no degree of legislative action will curb this wild dog we call President, and it is clear that the only recourse left to us is to call Bush to account, to impeach him for his crimes against the nation and against humanity.

Jason Priestley is a member of the class of 2008.





# CAMPUS LIFE

## Imminent Collapse

### Sleep Degradation

By Bill Andrews  
*CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR*

You know that episode of “The Simpsons” in which Lisa converts to vegetarianism? In particular, you know the part where she’s in her second grade science classroom dissecting worms, and in the background Ralph raises his hand and asks for another worm since he ate his, and Ms. Hoover says no you can’t have another one, you should just go to sleep? This is the setup for not only Ralph’s most famous line ever, but perhaps one of the best for “The Simpsons”: “Oh boy, sleep! That’s where I’m a Viking!” It’s funny not just because of the sheer joy a second grader has at the prospect of falling asleep in class, but also because of the striking imagery the typically dimwitted Ralph uses. A Viking, indeed!

But, my friends, we could all learn something from Ralph Wiggum, and not just because worms contain more protein than many of us eat any given day. We’re all tough hardworking MIT students, we know how to get things done, how to engineer solutions, and how to read science. And yet, very few of us come anywhere

close to Viking status when it comes to sleep. In fact, we seem to take a perverse pleasure in being sleep deprived. Much like the “I’m busier than you” contests I see all the time in the Infinite, the “I slept less than you, worship me” sentiment has been in full form lately. Not that it’s any surprise, of course; we are, after all, in the midst of term now, with exams, projects and lab reports blooming in the near future like horrible ugly flowers. It’s a wonder we get any sleep at all, right?

Ah, but is it? If someone is proudly asserting that he only got two hours of sleep last night, and only three hours the night before, is he not really saying he can’t manage his time wisely? Surely, in the weeks leading up to his academic trials and tribulations, he could have prepared a little better, paced himself more effectively, and retained some semblance of health and normality this week, instead of the bug-eyed, crazy-haired monster you see before you. (Unless, of course, he really is so busy that, despite working effectively everyday, he still must work deep into the wee hours to get everything done; in that case, yes, he wins, but

the odds are he’d be too busy working to boast. So I’m still right.)

And in case you are about to say to yourself smugly, “Well, sure, I’ve been up studying till the crack of dawn [no offense, Dawn], but that’s only because I was out partying and having a good time the night before,” don’t. While it may seem worth it to have one night of fun, frivolity, frolicking, and further fantastical feats in exchange for one night of torture over a MATLAB screen or a blank Word page, is it really? (Hint, “no.”) Again, the odds are you don’t have to do it like this, that you can still enjoy a night on the town without having to bear the fierce brunt of sleep deprivation — you just need to have a bit of foresight.

After all, let’s consider the ramifications of a life gone sleep deprived here @mit.edu. Everything seems alright at first, you get decent grades and get into a good grad school, from which you eventually do graduate, but all the while you’re missing hours and hours of sleep. Then you get a powerful, high-paying job, doing something that might vaguely have something to do with your degrees, and the madness

continues: late nights at the office, a powerful and expensive coffee addiction, crib notes from coworkers after you sleep through meetings. You keep getting passed over for promotions, since you always look like terrible, and even though you do great work (you are from MIT, after all), no one notices; they’re too busy making up rumors about your bad breath and lack of social life. The one girlfriend you managed to get is driven away in tears because you never learned to schedule your time wisely; one day when you call her to break another date she screams into the phone, “I loved you! If only you’d slept more, you bastard!” And then where are you?

Clearly, losing sleep isn’t the answer. So next time you’re up really late, whether tooling or punting, ask yourself if it’s really worth it. Ask yourself if you couldn’t have planned things out better. And ask yourself if you’re going to learn from this miserable experience. Because if you don’t, there are hundreds of Ralph Wiggums out there gunning for your job, your girl, and your life, and they’re not afraid to get some sleep.

## Ask Nutty B

### Nutty B is Back

By Bruce Wu

After two long years of hiding, Nutty B is back to reclaim his throne as THE nutty advice columnist at *The Tech*! For those you confused, Nutty B is currently a graduate student at MIT who tries to put in his two cents’ worth answering questions regarding anything and everything. You know the drill! Please e-mail him with any questions, and give him an excuse to procrastinate at 3 a.m. Send all questions to [askNuttyB@yahoo.com](mailto:askNuttyB@yahoo.com).

Dear Nutty B,  
*Where on earth have you been? You can’t just leave us fans like that! Are you ever coming back?*  
— Right Here Waiting for You  
(received March, 2005)

Dear Right Here Waiting for You,  
Yes, I am coming back, in fact, here I am. Voilà! ¡Aquí estoy! Wuo-Huey-Lai-Lah! Ta-ta-yi-ma! Um ... that pretty much covers all the languages I know (or pretend to know). My sincere apologies to the other-language speakers, but I assure you, I am still working on my language skills.

Where have I been? Well, after my failure to find Hogwarts and turn myself into a wizard, then to convince an Elf princess to give up her immortal soul to me, and finally to find and beat the sense out of Ennis (I couldn’t even find the Mountain, let alone Ennis), I figured my last hope would be to turn back and strive for world peace. So after stuffing myself with tons of self-help books (to deal with my own nuttiness), I’ve decided that it’s time to come back.

I am not sure if you are still here or have graduated, dear RHWfY, since I used to get letters from both undergrads and grads, but I can assure you and all readers that the columns will be quite the same. Heck, as far as I know, I haven’t been told I was any less nutty. Let’s have another semester of fun together here!

Dear Nutty B,  
*How on earth does a graduate student like you find time to write for The Tech? Shouldn’t you be working 24/7 in your lab writing codes for a simulation project or doing some sort of lithography? What inspired you to take up this job?*  
— Deeply Concerned

Dear Deeply Concerned,  
Honestly, I have no idea why I’m writing this column. Perhaps it has something to do with the fact that I accidentally stole a donut meant to be given to the homeless a while back, and now feel I have to help others to redeem myself. Or perhaps

it’s because I’ve been trash-talking every day to my friends, and one day I thought, Why not trash-talk with a larger group as audience?

As for the work in my lab, thank you very much for your concern. However, that’s where the UROPers come in. Whenever you need some-

one to mop the floor or pour you a cup of coffee, that’s when you yell “Hey, kids ...” Trust me, they do wonders! To be serious, I do have a busy schedule, but hearing people whining and complaining is definitely more fun than writing a paper. I guess that’s why I am here!



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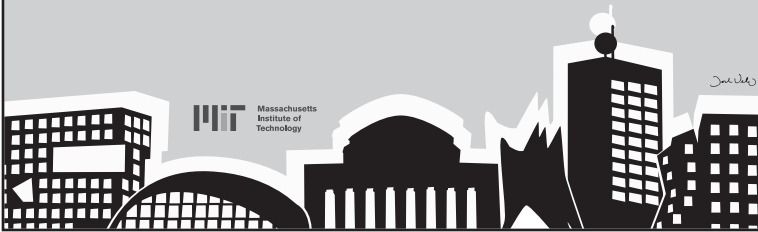
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DAVID TEMPLETON—THE TECH

# 10-250 Covere

The nth annual concert in bad taste, held in 10-250, was put on by the MIT Chorallaries at 10:59:59 p.m. Saturday, March 4. The Chorallaries offended hundreds of groups with their skits and musical parodies. A review of bad taste will run in Friday's issue of *The Tech*.

Counter-clockwise from left

Prathima Nandivada '06, Akash A. Chandawarker '09, and Erika Hutchinson (left to right) perform a rap during the translation skit "Urban Poetry."

Shashank M. Sundareshan '08 lobs a roll of toilet paper at the audience during a break in the action. He was promptly escorted off the stage by bad taste Security.

Ron Ron Cheng '07 (center) of the MIT/Wellesley Toons is groped while singing about having a sex change operation.

Riemann, played by Zachary J. Watts '07, watches while L'Hopital, played by Benjamin M. Schwartz '06, uses his slide rule to defeat the villain Zeno, Alexander S. del Nido '06, in a pun-filled skit featuring Course 18 and the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Gerbils."



RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH



DAVID TEMPLETON—THE TECH





# d in Bad Taste

Portraying a magic mirror, Jonathon R. Long '06 tells Erika Hutchinson of "the hottest girl at MIT" in a skit about "yellow fever."

Karena K. Tyan '08 serenades the audience with tales of masturbation in a parody of "Somewhere Only We Know," arranged by YeeKwan Lo '08 and originally performed by Keane.

Jonathon R. Long '06 manages to dodge a roll of toilet paper hurled at him from the back of 10-250.

Chorallaries alum Leah K. Premo '04 prepares to toss a roll of toilet paper at the performers on stage.

Center Photograph: Holly R. Johnson '07 (right) and the Chorallaries sing their rendition of The Engineers' Drinking Song.

Background Photograph: Students begin to cover 10-250 in toilet paper before the concert.



DAVID TEMPLETON—THE TECH



DAVID TEMPLETON—THE TECH



RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH



RAY C. HE—THE TECH



RAY C. HE—THE TECH



RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH



## Trio

TRIO WEBSITE: [ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE](http://ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE)

by Emezie Okorafor



## Moons of Uranus

by Juan Pablo Mendieta



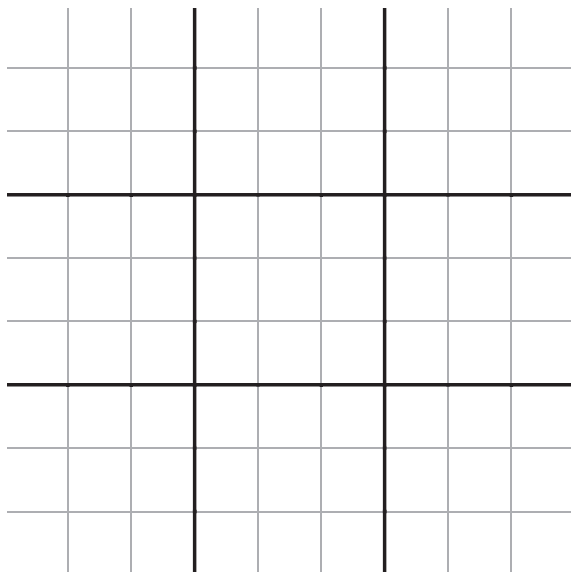
www.phdcomics.com



by Bill Amend

**by Scott Adams**

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# Friday: ‘A Night of Flavor’ in Kresge

“Cafe Mocha: A Night of Flavor,” was held on Friday, March 3 in Kresge Little Theatre. The event was sponsored by the Mocha Moves dance group.

Clockwise from right: Alejandro I. Vazquez '08 (left) and Gary M. Matthias '08 of the group “HT” rap.

From left to right, Gloria S. Lee '09, Rachel N. Peterson '09, Irene E. Headen '08, Nia S. Beckley '07, and Amy J. Marshall '09 of Mocha Moves dance.

Sharmeen Browarek '07 performs with the MIT Bhangra dance team.

Photography by Omari Stephens



# ‘Fables from the Underground’ Jazzes Up Kresge

The Festival Jazz Ensemble, directed by Frederick E. Harris Jr., presented a concert entitled “Fables from the Underground” this past Friday, March 3 in Kresge Auditorium.

(below) David P. Jenicek '09 plays the piano during the Festival Jazz Ensemble’s performance of “Afro Blue.”

(right) Cristian J. Derr '08 concentrates on his solo at the beginning of “Afro Blue.”

Photography by Omari Stephens





# Latke Draws More Google Hits

Latke, from Page 1

Defending the latke were Robert J. Silbey, dean of the School of Science, Music professor Brian Robison, and Literature professor Diana Henderson. Sitting opposite of them and defending the hamantasch were Mathematics professor Daniel J. Kleitman, Physics professor Alan

*“But soft, what latke  
through yonder window  
breaks?”*

—Literature Professor  
Diana Henderson

Guth '68, and Mechanical Engineering Professor Alexander H. Slocum '82.

In true debate format, each professor was given seven minutes to speak followed by a team rebuttal lasting five minutes. The moderator, Physics Professor Walter H.G. Lewin, a fervent latke supporter in the past, called the debates "Jewish culture and comedy at its very best."

A hamantasch was flipped to determine who would debate first. Team Latke chose fruit side up and lost, giving Team Hamantasch the floor.

"Someone has good taste when his or her taste is the same as mine," said Kleitman as he presented his opening comments for the Hamantasch team. Kleitman recalled the hamantasch's rich history as an item "baked and given and consumed for centuries. The latke has no such claim to history." Kleitman likened the potato, introduced to Europe in the 16th century, and by extension the latke, to the contemporaneous yet antiquated steam engine of the industrial revolution. The hamantasch, on the other hand, "is a thing of dreams. I long to eat one," he said.

Silbey, the first speaker for the latke side, attempted to outshine last year's claim by Lewin that latkes "have a magic power" and can generate light. Citing Google, which returns an impressive 380,000 hits on a search for "latke" and only 62,000 for "hamantaschen," Silbey built his case on recent, albeit questionable results from the School of Science. Silbey quoted recent research suggesting that a latke diet prolongs life in mice. In the field of neuroscience, Silbey pointed out that when someone is shown a latke, the brain "lights up like a madman." In the field of chemistry, latke molecules facilitate alkene bonding, he said. Silbey even went so far as to refute a claim in last year's debate, saying that latkes, not hamentashen, are the dark matter thought to make up over 21 percent of the mass of the universe.

Slocum, introduced by Lewin as a man “conceived during a study break” by two then-MIT students, next took the stage to defend the hamantasch. “I don’t like to take my science from Google,” said Slocum, “I prefer to gather real data.” Invoking a mechanical engineering perspective, Slocum created a fruit pastry diagram displaying six organized hamantaschen next to a chaos of latkes. Using a band saw to illustrate symmetrical differences between the two Jewish treats, Slocum said “Latkes draw upon asymmetry and therefore they are evil.”

Slocum also proved that haman-

taschen express more of an affinity for perpetual motion and are more likely to slide down an inclined plane. With audience members now chanting in support of their preferred delicacy, Henderson approached the podium to defend the latke. A world authority on Shakespeare according to Lewin, Henderson called the debate “a matter of taste, and taste means esthetic.”

"The latke is appropriate for lyric, tragic, and epic forms," Henderson said. "There is very little poetry in the prune," a common filling found in hamentashen. Henderson continued by citing Virginia Woolf, Jane Austen, and the numerous mentions of potatoes in James Joyce's "Ulysses."

"With the potato comes the Renaissance, Shakespeare, Milton, Donne, what has made this scientific institution so great." Henderson finished with two allusions to Shakespeare, offering "Shall I die? Shall I fly? Has the latke man gone by?" and "But soft, what latke through yonder window breaks?"

Guth, last year's winner of the *Boston Globe* Spring Sweep contest for the messiest office, offered a slightly disorganized summary of the history of the hamantasch and its superiority. Asserting that a hamantasch, not an apple, fell upon Newton's head and that Benjamin Franklin flew a hamantasch, not a kite, when discovering the phenom-

enon of electricity, Guth suggested that hamantaschen may provide ample protection as a heat shield for NASA's WMAP satellite.

Robison closed comments for Team Latke by presenting Mozart's little known "Eine kleine latkemusik."

"You can take from a latke a tiny disc sized piece and find that it creates a microlatke, something you cannot do with hamantaschen," he pointed out.

In a recent experiment, Robison proved the property of enhanced transmission of musical sound through hamantaschen.

"I lured unsuspecting grad students to my room with promises of a lucrative UROP," Robison admitted. Ordinary foam ear pads were replaced with two latkes or two hamantaschen, and Oreos and butter-milk pancakes served as controls. Latkes were unanimously preferred, as the hamantaschen caused "pastry crumbs and poppy seed bits to bounce around inside the subject's ear canal."

Following all statements, the audience was given a three-minute break. During rebuttals, Slocum conjured a spirited poetry slam in favor of the hamantaschen.

"The hamantaschen comes from a violent story, the latke represents warmth; a mother's love. I rest my case," said Silbey, and the debate drew to a close.

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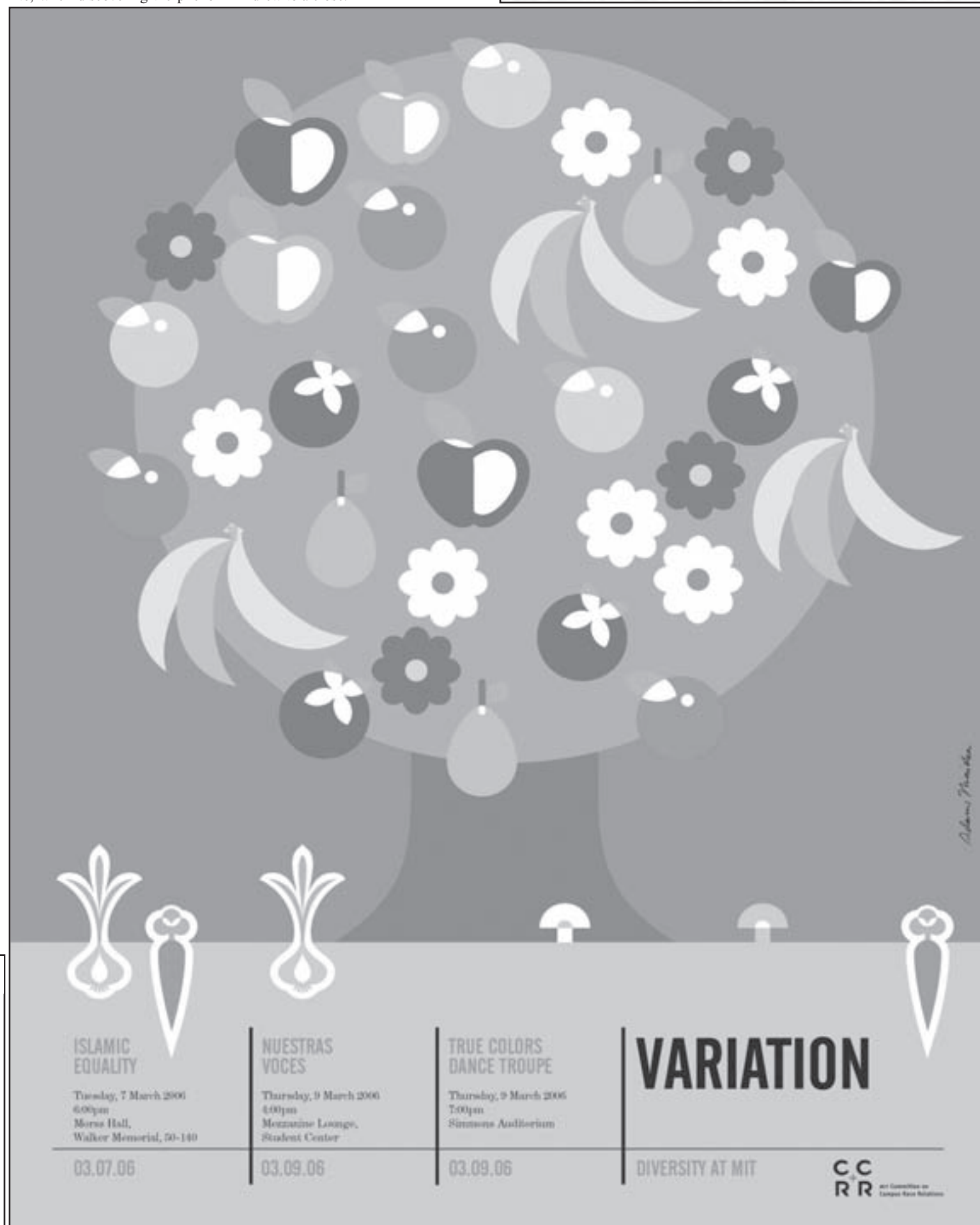
### A Panel Discussion with MIT Students

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7:00 pm

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## Solution to Sudoku

from page 11

3	2	1	9	6	4	8	7	5
8	9	6	2	7	5	4	1	3
4	5	7	8	1	3	2	9	6
6	8	4	1	5	7	9	3	2
5	3	2	4	9	6	1	8	7
1	7	9	3	2	8	6	5	4
2	4	8	5	3	1	7	6	9
7	1	5	6	4	9	3	2	8
9	6	3	7	8	2	5	4	1



# Supreme Court Rules Colleges Must Allow Military Recruiters

By Linda Greenhouse  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld a law that cuts federal funding for universities that do not give military recruiters the same access to students that other potential employers receive. The court ruled that the law does not violate the free-speech rights of universities that object to the military's exclusion of gay men and lesbians who are open about their sexual orientation.

The opinion by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. was unanimous.

It was a setback, although hardly an unexpected one, to a coalition of law schools that brought the constitutional challenge, as well as to the Association of American Law Schools, which represents nearly all accredited law schools and since 1991 has required adherence to a nondiscrimination policy on sexual orientation as a condition of membership.

Many law schools initially chose to comply with the association's policy by barring military recruiters completely or by taking such steps as refusing to help the recruiters schedule appointments or relegating them to less favorable locations for meeting with students.

Congress responded with a series of increasingly punitive measures, all known as the Solomon Amendment, culminating in the 2004 statute at issue in the case. It requires access for military recruiters "that is at least equal in quality and scope" to access for other employers, on pain of forfeiting grants to the entire university from eight federal agencies, including the Departments of Defense, Education, and Health and Human Services.

With hundreds of millions of dollars at stake, all but a handful of law schools yielded. Nearly three dozen

banded together as the Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights and turned to the courts.

Carl C. Monk, executive director of the law school association, said in an interview on Monday that the group would continue to require its member schools to engage in "significant" activities to counter the impact of the Solomon Amendment, such as organizing faculty forums at which the military's policy could be analyzed and challenged.

The plaintiffs had persuaded the federal appeals court in Philadelphia that the Solomon Amendment imposed an "unconstitutional condition" on the universities' receipt of federal money by requiring them to surrender their First Amendment rights and become involuntary carriers of the government's anti-gay message.

But Roberts said on Monday that the plaintiffs' theory of the case, as well as the opinion by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, was based on a fundamental misperception about what the Solomon Amendment was imposing.

"As a general matter, the Solomon Amendment regulates conduct, not speech," the chief justice said. "It affects what law schools must do—afford equal access to military recruiters—not what they may or may not say."

Pointing out that law schools remained free to disavow the military's policy, to denounce it or even to help students organize protests, Roberts said that "the Solomon Amendment neither limits what law schools may say nor requires them to say anything."

Citing a 1990 Supreme Court decision that upheld an equal-access requirement for student religious clubs in high schools, he continued: "We

have held that high school students can appreciate the difference between speech a school sponsors and speech the school permits because legally required to do so. Surely students have not lost that ability by the time they get to law school."

To the extent that speech is involved when a military recruiter visits a campus, the chief justice said, the speech is "clearly" the government's, not the law school's. He said that placing the incidental assistance that universities must provide to military recruiters on the same plane as compelling students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance "trivializes the freedom protected" by a 1943 Supreme Court decision holding that the Pledge may not be required.

While the conclusion that the Solomon Amendment does not directly infringe on the law schools' free-speech rights was at the heart of the court's analysis, the opinion contained several other important threads.

One was the conclusion that allowing military recruiters on campus was not an "inherently expressive" activity. This conclusion permitted Roberts to explain why the case was not governed by a Supreme Court precedent declaring unconstitutional a Florida law that required newspapers to grant a "right of reply," or by another precedent allowing the organizers of the St. Patrick's Day parade in Boston to exclude a gay-pride group despite a nondiscrimination ordinance.

The difference, the chief justice said, was that both the newspaper and the parade organizers were engaged in expression with which the government could not constitutionally interfere, while law schools "are not speaking when they host interviews and recruiting receptions."

# Housing Costs to Rise 6.7 Percent for '06-'07

Pell Grants, from Page 1

The maximum Pell grant amount, \$4,050, has been frozen since 2001, Hockfield said.

Vice President for Institute Affairs Kirk D. Kolenbrander said that the program emphasizes "our recognition of the role that the Pell grants play."

The Pell Matching Grants program will cost MIT about \$1.5 million, and will be funded by the same sources as other MIT scholarships and grants, said Elizabeth M. Hicks, executive director of Student Financial Services. The program trades a portion of the \$5,500 self-help award for an MIT grant in the amount of the Pell grant. Self-help is the amount students who receive financial aid are expected to contribute through loans, work, or outside scholarships during the academic year.

For the 2004-2005 academic year, MIT's contribution to student financial aid, including grants, loans, and work study, totaled \$55.3 million. This money comes from restricted sources, such as endowed funds provided by alumni and friends of MIT, and general Institute funds.

Hicks said that though there are over 1,000 endowed funds that provide money for financial aid, it is not enough to cover the total cost to MIT. Budgetary constraints on general Institute funds limit the amount of money that MIT can spend on financial aid. Hockfield said that increasing the amount of endowed funds is her "highest priority in fundraising." Endowed funds provide approximately two thirds of MIT's contribution to financial aid, Hockfield said.

Matching the full Pell grant amount sends a message to students that they should "start imagining the possibilities of coming to places like this," without limiting their options, said Hicks. The target group is stu-

dents who have previously demonstrated more concern about debt and have more difficulty finding community-based scholarships to help cover the self-help amount, she said.

In recent years, Harvard and Yale have pledged to not ask for family contribution from families earning less than \$40,000 and \$45,000 per year, respectively. Though MIT has no plans to adopt such a program, by targeting Pell grants recipients and considering the impact on the student's contribution, the Institute is now in a "unique situation," Hicks said.

Past studies listed cost or financial aid as one of the top three reasons why students chose to attend another university, though financial concerns are now less of a reason, Hicks said.

## Housing costs increase 6.7 percent

Tuition and fees will rise 4 percent next year from \$32,300 to \$33,600, said Hockfield. Estimated housing costs will rise 6.7 percent to \$5,600. The total cost of attending MIT for the 2006-2007 academic year will be \$46,350, a 3.9 percent increase from the current year. In addition to tuition and housing, the total cost includes \$4,350 for meals and \$2,800 for books and personal expenses.

The self-help portion of the financial aid package for students not receiving Pell grants will remain at \$5,500, despite a December proposal by then-Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine to lower the amount to \$4,500. That proposal would have cost MIT \$2.3 million, compared to the \$1.5 million cost of the Pell Matching Grant plan.

Redwine called the Pell Matching Grant program "clever" and said that though it targets lower-income students, his proposal and the Pell Grant program do not target vastly different populations.

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# Dorm's Laundry Revenue to Drop

Laundry, from Page 1

With LaundryView, a student uses the Web site <http://www.laundryview.com> to check the availability of each washer and dryer, including the amount of time remaining for a machine in use. Additionally, the student can receive an e-mail or instant message notification via computer, cell phone, or personal digital assistant when a certain number of machines become available or when the student's laundry is finished.

The usefulness of LaundryView will likely vary across different dormitories. Simmons Hall, for example, has several different laundry rooms spread throughout the dormitory, each containing two washers and two dryers. Sebastian Castro '08, a Simmons resident, said the first laundry room he tries "is full every time I do laundry" and that LaundryView would "save a lot of time walking across the dorm to find a machine."

East Campus, on the other hand, has one laundry room with over a dozen washers and a dozen dryers. Ashlie M. Brown '07 said she "has never gone down to the laundry room and not been able to use it." Brown said receiving a notification when laundry was done would be useful even though it can be kept track of by watching the clock.

LaundryView is part of a bundled upgrade of the system that allows students to pay for laundry using their MIT identification card. The cost of maintaining the existing, outdated system increases every year, Collins said. Though the new system will also cost more than the current one, the upgrade will be cheaper than the rising maintenance costs by about 1 percent, he said.

Dormitory governments currently receive a percentage of the laundry revenue, a percentage that will slightly decrease as a result of the upgrade, though Collins said he did not know the exact number.

Random Hall will not use LaundryView because it owns, operates, and maintains its laundry machines independently. As such, Random



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

**Clothes abandoned or forgotten by their owners hang in the laundry room at Next House. MIT Housing is implementing a new service that will alert dormitory residents by e-mail or text message when their laundry is ready.**

laundry costs only 25 cents, one third the cost of laundry in other dorms. Two-thirds of Random's laundry revenue is returned to the dormitory government, according to Brad A. Stronger '08, a laundry chair at Random. Random's laundry server provides much of the same basic functionality as LaundryView.

According to the Random Hall Web site, at one point a company

threatened legal action against Random and "tried to patent the idea of a laundry server out from under us years after we built ours."

The Random Hall system uses photoresistors to monitor LED's that indicate the state a machine is in, Stronger said. Students are not legally allowed to modify laundry machines at other dorms because those machines are not owned by MIT, Collins said.

# Tickets Offer Varied Views for Advocacy

Administration Interaction Seen As One Key Debate, from Page 1

ministration. Lowell and Kelch repeatedly said they would "keep their ears open," and develop open relations with administrators.

Chambers and Cabral took a more aggressive stance. "We need to press the administration," Cabral said. His running mate Chambers mentioned renovations to Burton-Conner House and the possible closing of Random Hall as issues they would raise with the administration.

Lukmann, the UA Senate Speaker, mentioned his ongoing efforts to increase student membership in Student Life committees. Lowell said she was interested in repeating the success of the Strategic Advisory Committee, which managed a student-initiated movement to set MIT's agenda for housing change in the late 1990s.

Miller, agreeing that the committee was a useful model for the current UA to study, said that she plans to consult Jeff Roberts '02, a founding member of the SAC, on how to best broker compromises with Institute administration on housing changes.

An audience member polled the tickets on their response to a hypothetical Institute shut-down of Anna's Taqueria. Chambers' ticket did not answer, and dismissed the question as "divorced from reality," saying that Anna's was not likely to close.

Lowell, in turn, quickly named key MIT administrators whom she would contact. After finding out from administrators what led to the crisis, she said she would then gather student opinions and organize feedback to the administration, in the form of protests if necessary.

Miller had the most memorable response, citing a riot by MIT stu-

dents in 1971 during which students poured gasoline on the ground. That type of response "might be necessary," she said.

All the tickets stressed the importance of the UA's nominations committee, which appoints student representatives to several influential Institute committees.

Updating the UA's Web site, which has been in stasis since last November, was also a common priority. "A better UA Web site is a crucial part of our campaign," said Lukmann, expressing a sentiment echoed by the other tickets.

In summarizing their platform, Miller and Lukmann mentioned several far-ranging ambitions. For them, the biggest issue is improving MIT Cable, said Miller. Lukmann also said he would work to reduce textbook prices, and as act as a student advocate. Miller characterized her ticket as "old-school conservative" and promised a smaller UA.

Chambers and Cabral called for an increased UA presence by moving meetings to student residences across campus rather than holding them in the Student Center, a sentiment echoed by other tickets. The pair summarized by saying that their ticket had successfully articulated its distinguishing qualities.

Lowell's closing statement was perhaps the most impassioned. Referring to her year of experience as UA vice president, she said she'd "done some things right, and done some things wrong." She characterized herself as a policy person, saying she would rely on Kelch for leadership support.

Lowell lives in East Campus; her running mate Kelch lives at Zeta Psi. Chambers and Cabral reside in Sigma Nu and Chi Phi, respectively. Lukmann lives in Simmons Hall, and Miller in Burton-Conner House.

# Postol Questions Impartiality of DoD Investigation

Lincoln Lab, from Page 1

about the Patriot missile during the Persian Gulf War, did his own analysis and concluded that the tests were so flawed that the Lincoln Lab scientists could not possibly have signed off on the data in good faith.

In 2003, an MIT professor's inquiry concluded that the university should conduct a full investigation

into Postol's allegations. But the Missile Defense Agency, a division of the Pentagon, refused to allow MIT investigators access to the materials relating to the investigation.

In a letter to faculty Friday, Provost L. Rafael Reif said "the MIT administration has never ceased to press for a satisfactory conclusion," and called the delay of three years "unfortunate." He said MIT had been pursuing the issue with the

highest levels of the U.S. Government.

Under MIT's new agreement with the Department of Defense, the investigation will be conducted by a civilian Pentagon employee who is not associated with the Missile Defense Agency, Reif wrote.

He added that to assure an impartial investigation, the government agreed to use an outside consultant, Norman Augustine, former chair-

man and chief executive of Lockheed Martin Corp. and a former member of MIT's board.

Postol, however, said Friday that Augustine, a former Army undersecretary, is biased. He referred to an opinion piece by Augustine in the *Wall Street Journal* shortly after the Gulf War, defending the Patriot missile against critics.

Augustine was traveling overseas Friday and could not be reached.

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SPORTS

Men's Volleyball Scrapes a Win Despite Mistakes, Game 3 Loss

By Mindy Brauer  
ASST. DIR. OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Praveen Pamidimukkala '08 and Ryan G. Dean '08 helped lead the nationally-ranked No. 14 MIT men's volleyball team to a 30-28, 30-20, 26-30, 30-26 win over Emmanuel College Thursday night. With their fifth win in a row, the Engineers' record improved to 16-4 while the Saints dropped to 10-8 on the year.

The first game was close throughout. Emmanuel maintained a slim lead during the early stages to reach (11-8), then Tech answered with three consecutive points for the fifth tie of the game. After more seesawing, Emmanuel continued to attack and tied the game at 28. Following a time-out

by the Engineers, Tech closed out the game with back-to-back points.

In the second game, MIT quickly jumped out to a 6-3 lead. After four lead changes, Tech was up 13-12, and maintained the one-point margin until the Saints picked up the next three for an 18-16 edge. The Engineers then scored 14 of the next 16 points for the win.

MIT opened the third game with five unanswered points and sustained a sizable lead that grew to 19-10. As in the first game, Emmanuel slowly chipped away at the deficit and tied the game at 21. MIT captured the next point, but the Saints won the next three, taking their first lead of the game. The Engineers were able to even the game at 26, but Emmanuel notched the next four points, making

the match 2-1.

In the final frame, MIT established a 14-9 advantage. The Saints stayed within striking distance and eventually overtook the Engineers on a five-point run for a 19-18 lead. The teams traded points, but Tech scored four in a row to get ahead for good, for an eventual 30-26 win and the match.

Pamidimukkala recorded his fifth double-double of the season on 19 kills and 11 digs. Dean, playing setter to give Jordan X. Wan '06 a game off, notched his second consecutive double-double, totaling 46 assists and a team-high 12 digs. Alex L. Borschow '06 registered a career-high nine total blocks and added eight kills.

The Engineers will host Harvard University on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Rockwell Cage.



Thomas H. Dohlman '07 volleys the ball during the Engineers' meet against Bentley College at the Carr Indoor Tennis Facility (W53) on Saturday, March 4.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, March 8, 2006  
Varsity Men's Volleyball vs. Harvard University 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Damon Will Let Down Yankees With Leadoff, Post-Allstar Shortfalls

By Chris Bettinger  
SPORTS STAFF

Just accept it. The fairy tale is over. Centerfielder and lead-off man Johnny Damon is a Yankee and that's just the way it is.

Column

Anyone who has lived in the city of Boston, or been even marginally aware of baseball or sports in general knows the story: the Red Sox offered Damon a 4-year \$40 million contract, which was topped by only the Yankees, who offered a 4 year \$52 million deal. Damon's eventual acceptance of the Yankees offer has split members of Red Sox Nation into two camps: the group that asks, "Why didn't the Red Sox just give Damon another \$12 million? I hate the Yankees," and the "Good riddance! We didn't want him anyway. And by the way, I hate the Yankees" group.

The manner of determining where a loyal Sox fan stands on this issue is nontrivial. Nevertheless, I am convinced that the Red Sox made the right call in letting Damon walk, as the Yankees will probably get a lot less than they bargained for, especially over the next four seasons.

Damon's durability has never been a question. He rarely gets injured and when he does, he simply plays through it. But being durable isn't always about staying off the disabled list and showing up at the park every day. Durability is about consistent production throughout the year. A careful look at Damon's on-base plus slugging percentage (OPS) before and after the all-star break in recent years reveals a different

story. His production level has essentially leveled, then dropped off during the season over the last three years (see table), a dangerous trend for an aging ballplayer. As Damon gets older, there is no reason to believe that this trend will not continue or worsen during his 4-year stint at Yankee Stadium.

Speaking of Yankee Stadium, this ballpark has not been especially friendly to Damon, who has only managed an OPS of 0.703 in the Bronx over the last three years, well below his 0.836 in Fenway and lifetime of 0.804. Yankee proponents will often counter with the argument that his low OPS in Yankee Stadium is due to Yankee pitching, but keep in mind that the Yankees had a team ERA of 4.52, 9th in the American League, so facing Yankee pitching in the Stadium probably helped Damon. The change of scenery from Boston to the Bronx may prove too challenging and ultimately lead to the demise of Johnny Damon in pinstripes.

Damon's other obvious weaknesses are, well ... obvious. He throws like a girl not named Jennie Finch, and his stolen bases have declined. Though obvious, these are minor problems. Having a strong arm in the outfield is highly overrated and the stolen bases dropped simply because the Red Sox don't gamble on that.

The bigger problem is that qualities that could be portrayed as strengths have turned into weaknesses. I always hear about how Johnny Damon is one of the best lead-off hitters in the game. Let's see: best lead-off hitter in the game? Really? Someone who posts a career on-base percentage (OBP) of 0.353 is NOT the best lead-off hitter in baseball. Just because he looks and "feels" like a good lead-off doesn't make him so. Damon wasn't the best lead-off hitter in the American League East, or even the best on his future team during 2005. Baltimore Orioles 3B Brian Roberts (0.387 OBP and 27 stolen bases) and Derek Jeter (0.389 OBP and 19 SB's) did better than Damon's 0.366 and 18 SB's.

This leads up to yet another reason why I am always going to shake my head when I see the Yankees lineup in 2006. They are going to have their best lead-off hitter (Jeter) batting second and playing shortstop while the best shortstop of our generation (A-rod) is playing third base. Amazing! Maybe they should have Hideki Matsui catch or the Big Unit pinch run.

Or maybe they should get really crazy and give an aging 32-year-old who is so full of himself that he doesn't understand the concept of team a bloated \$52 million dollar contract so they will end up with the next reincarnation of Bernie Williams in centerfield in 2009. Never mind, that last one sounds a little too ridiculous.

Damon's On-Base Plus Slugging

Year	Pre All-Star	Post All-Star	Difference
2003	.733	.744	+.011
2004	.889	.818	-.071
2005	.859	.740	-.119

—SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.ESPN.COM](http://www.espn.com)

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Solution to Crossword

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